UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/531
16 November 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 37

ZONE OF PEACE AND COOPERATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 8	3
II.	REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS		4
	Argentina		4
	El Salvador		5
	Namibia		5
	Nigeria		6
	United Arab Emirates		6
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland		6
III.	REPLIES RECEIVED FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM		7
	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development		7
	United Nations Development Programme		8
	United Nations Environment Programme		10
	United Nations Population Fund		12
	United Nations University		13

CONTENTS (continued)

	Page
Economic Commission for Africa	14
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	14
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	15
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization .	16
World Health Organization	17
International Maritime Organization	20

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/74 of 14 December 1992 entitled "Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic" which, inter alia, took note of the report of the Secretary-General in accordance with its resolution 46/19 (A/47/424 and Add.1-3). The Assembly welcomed the recent initiatives aimed at the full entry into force of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco) 1/ and stressed the relevance of such initiatives for the advancement of the objectives and principles of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic; and affirmed the importance of the South Atlantic to global maritime and commercial transactions and its determination to preserve the region for all activities protected by relevant international law, including the freedom of navigation in the high seas.

2. The General Assembly stressed the importance for the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic of the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 2/ and the programmes set forth in Agenda 21, 3/ as well as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 4/ and the Convention on Biological Diversity; 5/ noted with interest the hope expressed by the countries of the zone to welcome in the near future a non-racial, democratic South Africa into the community of South Atlantic States; and took note with satisfaction of the initiative of the Government of Namibia to host a meeting of the Ministers for Trade and Industry of the countries of the zone at Windhoek in 1993.

3. The General Assembly requested the relevant organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system to render all appropriate assistance, which States of the zone might seek in their joint efforts to implement the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

4. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to keep the implementation of Assembly resolution 41/11 of 27 October 1986 and other subsequent resolutions on the matter under review and to submit a report to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session, taking into account, inter alia, the views expressed by Member States.

5. Pursuant to the above resolution, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale on 12 August 1993 to the Governments of the States Members of the United Nations, requesting their views on the implementation of the declaration on the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

6. Pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 47/74, which called upon the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to render all appropriate assistance which States of the zone might seek in their joint efforts to implement the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, letters were dispatched on 11 August 1993 to the organizations and bodies of the United Nations requesting them to convey their contributions for the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General by 15 September 1993.

7. Communications received from those institutions are set out in section III of the present report.

8. As at 8 November 1993, seven Governments had replied to the Secretary-General, one of which stated that it had no comments for the time being. Any further replies and notifications that may be received at a later date will be published as addenda to the present report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

ARGENTINA

[Original: Spanish]

[20 September 1993]

1. The Government of Argentina wishes to highlight the existing climate of harmony and cooperation between the countries in the southern cone of America, which has made it possible to consolidate peace and stability in that part of the world.

2. Towards that end, and within the framework of their policy of cooperation, non-proliferation and security, Argentina and Brazil initiated a joint system for accounting for and controlling nuclear materials whose basic purpose is to ensure that nuclear materials are not diverted for the building of nuclear bombs. This system is being implemented by the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC), established for that purpose.

3. Furthermore, the House of Deputies of the National Congress is facilitating the legislative approval needed for ratification of the amendments to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco).

4. Argentina has ratified the quadripartite agreement on international nuclear safeguards, signed with Brazil, the International Atomic Energy Agency and ABACC.

5. In addition, Argentina, Brazil and Chile are signatories to the Mendoza Declaration by which they have undertaken not to develop, store or use chemical or biological weapons. Subsequently, Ecuador, Uruguay, Bolivia and Paraguay have also acceded to the agreement. This undertaking can be considered a major contribution to the non-proliferation of means of mass destruction.

6. In the context of paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 45/36 of 27 November 1990, it is important to point out that the situation described in paragraph 3 of the Argentine Government's reply at the forty-sixth session regarding the zone of peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic (A/46/410 and Add.1 and 2) still exists. Solving this important problem would make possible the definitive consolidation of stability and cooperation in the South Atlantic.

EL SALVADOR

[Original: Spanish]

[25 September 1993]

1. The Government of El Salvador wishes to reiterate its full support for General Assembly resolutions 41/11 of 27 October 1986 and 47/74 of 14 December 1992, concerning the declaration of a zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic. It wishes to emphasize that all the States of the South Atlantic and other States with interests in that zone should recognize the need to implement the aforementioned resolutions and, in particular, the need to preserve the region from measures of militarization, the presence of foreign military bases, the arms race and, above all, nuclear weapons, and from acts that infringe upon the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the States of the South Atlantic, and to protect the environment and freedom of navigation in the high seas.

2. In the view of the Government of El Salvador, it is essential that the States of the region that still have internal problems strive to settle their differences by means of dialogue and cooperation. Moreover, countries and colonial Powers with territorial disputes in that zone should redouble their efforts urgently to find a just, peaceful and lasting solution to any conflict that may arise, with a view to creating the necessary climate and building the confidence required, in order to preserve and maintain peace, stability and security in the zone of the South Atlantic, thereby helping to ensure compliance with those excellent resolutions and to translate them into practice.

NAMIBIA

[Original: English]

[8 November 1993]

1. During the Ministerial Meeting of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic of 5 October 1993, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Namibia briefed the meeting about the progress achieved between the Governments of Namibia and South Africa on the reintegration of Walvis Bay and the offshore islands into Namibia.

2. As a result, in the Declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic (A/48/481, annex), the Ministers welcomed the agreement reached between the Governments of Namibia and South Africa and set 28 February 1994 as the date for the transfer and reintegration of Walvis Bay and other offshore islands into Namibia, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 432 (1978) of 27 July 1978.

3. The Ministers commended the Government of the Republic of Namibia for successfully achieving this noble goal through peaceful means.

4. The Government of Namibia will host the meeting of Ministers for Trade and Industry of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic to be held at Windhoek from 26 to 28 November 1993.

NIGERIA

[Original: English]

[4 November 1993]

1. By a letter dated 4 November 1993, the Government of Nigeria, as coordinator of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, requested the Secretary-General to circulate the Declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic of 5 October 1993 as an official document of the General Assembly.

2. In response to that request, the United Nations Secretariat has reproduced the Declaration in the annex to document A/48/581.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

[Original: Arabic]

[29 September 1993]

Given the belief of the United Arab Emirates that peace and cooperation represent the proper basis that should govern relations between States at the regional and international levels, and on the basis of its desire and aspiration that the Gulf region should be a lake of security, peace and cooperation and the Middle East region a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, the Government of the United Arab Emirates is of the view that General Assembly resolution 47/74 of 14 December 1992 entitled "zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic" contains concepts and principles of regional and international importance. Their application in the region situated between Africa and South America would create a peaceful and secure environment and promote social, economic and environmental stability and would serve as a good example of the importance of the role of the United Nations in disseminating peace, security and cooperation among States in the light of the recent changes in the international arena.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

[Original: English]

[1 October 1993]

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomes the objectives of General Assembly resolution 47/74 of 14 December 1992, which are to promote peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic. In this regard, the Government wishes to draw the attention of the

Secretary-General to positive developments in relations between the United Kingdom and Argentina which have contributed to the lessening of tension in the South West Atlantic. In particular, the Government of the United Kingdom wishes to emphasize the continuing progress in bilateral cooperation on fisheries that has contributed to the conservation of stocks and the continued contribution of the confidence-strengthening measures agreed to at the Madrid talks in February 1990 and modified in September 1991 6/ and in July 1993 7/ in avoiding incidents in the military sphere in the South Atlantic.

III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

1. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has taken some initiatives aimed at contributing to the process of integration of a post-apartheid South Africa into the existing framework of economic cooperation in the region. It has also been following closely developments concerning the Meeting of Ministers for Trade and Industry, to be held at Windhoek in 1993, with a view to identifying regional cooperation programmes that it could initiate or support.

2. Within UNCTAD, there is a donor-recipient mechanism for holding consultations on support measures for regional and subregional economic cooperation programmes and projects. The mechanism provides for structured discussions on assistance to specific cooperation programmes and projects, and this mechanism could also make a useful contribution to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/74 of 14 December 1992.

3. Paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 47/74 stresses the importance for the zone of the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 2/ and the programmes set forth in Agenda 21, 3/ as well as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 4/ and the Convention on Biological Diversity. 5/ The Commodities Division of UNCTAD is currently involved, under its work programme on sustainable development, natural resources management and commodities, in a number of activities which could contribute in the future to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/74 as regards the above-mentioned areas. One of them is the subprogramme on "Improved natural resources management in the commodity sector", whose objective is to identify concrete policy proposals which would ensure that production and trade are consistent with a better management of natural resources and protection of the environment. Several case-studies will be undertaken for mineral, agricultural, fish and shrimp and forestry products. In this respect, the projected work on the sustainable use of fishery resources may be particularly relevant. In the selection of countries and the preparation of the case studies, the South Atlantic zone will be appropriately taken into account.

4. Work has already started through a study financed by a grant from the Government of the Netherlands on "Market conditions and sustainable development of fishery resources", prepared by Mr. V. M. Kaczinsky from the School of Marine Affairs of the University of Washington at Seattle. The study covers intensity

of resource use, resource exploitation, management and sustainable development in fisheries; the implications of international market mechanisms on marine fishery resource utilization and the environment; and, policy recommendations in the national and international perspective. Certain sections of the study contain interesting data and specific references to the South Atlantic zone.

5. Another area of work by UNCTAD is that related to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. 5/ In this connection, a note was presented to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the framework of the "full cooperation" requested between the Executive Director of UNEP and other relevant international organizations in resolution 2 adopted by the Conference for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity, held on 22 May 1992. The planned activities include the management of fishery resources and its impact on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity; the capture and expansion of economic benefits, including through international trade, from the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity; the internalization of costs and resource values linked to marine biodiversity; and access to, and transfer of, technology related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity. All or some of these activities may also refer to the particular case of the South Atlantic zone.

United Nations Development Programme

Namibia

1. The Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), at its thirty-eighth session in June 1991, decided to extend special assistance to Namibia equivalent to that given a least developed country. As such, Namibia has continued to benefit from enhanced allocation of UNDP resources as if it were one of the least developed countries.

South Africa

2. UNDP has followed closely the progress of South Africa towards establishing a democratic and non-racial nation, which would make it possible for UNDP to support programmes of technical assistance in that country.

3. UNDP has set up an internal task force which is making preparatory arrangements for the establishment of a UNDP presence inside South Africa, possibly in 1994.

4. In addition, UNDP has been playing an active role in the core group involving major donors such as the Commonwealth Secretariat, the World Bank, the European Economic Community and the United Nations Centre against Apartheid to make preparatory arrangements for a possible donors' conference for South Africa after the general elections in 1994.

Angola

5. In Angola, the United Nations assisted in the verification and monitoring of the first national elections, held on 29 and 30 September 1992, following the peace agreement signed in May 1991.

6. Through technical assistance under a project executed by the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat, UNDP provided support to the National Electoral Council of Angola in the organization of the electoral process, as well as the coordination of the technical assistance provided directly to the National Electoral Council from other donors.

7. Through the project "Special Relief Programme for Angola" (ANG/90/010), UNDP provided assistance to the coordination and delivery of humanitarian assistance in Angola since November 1990. Beginning in 1993, UNDP has been providing logistic support to the United Nations Unit for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance.

8. UNDP has also assisted in the organization and implementation of training programmes for the reintegration of demobilized soldiers.

Liberia

9. In Liberia, UNDP has been assisting the emergency humanitarian operations from the very outset by providing the services of the Special Coordinator and other administrative staff, in addition to meeting logistic support and management costs. Together with his team of UNDP international and national colleagues, the Special Coordinator has been leading the emergency relief operations carried out throughout the country by the United Nations system, namely, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization. Four operational centres have been established in rural areas to enhance the delivery capacity of both United Nations and non-governmental organization programmes to populations with the greatest need. Following the peace agreement signed at Cotonou, general elections are to be held in the near future and UNDP will provide the necessary technical assistance.

Toxic waste disposal

10. Tens of thousands of unusable pesticides have accumulated in Africa and have become a source of great environmental concern. These are pesticides that can no longer be used because they have deteriorated or because their use has been banned or is no longer desirable. The total quantity of this hazardous waste in Africa is estimated to be between 20,000 and 60,000 metric tons.

11. Unwanted stocks include organo-chlorines which have either been banned or are now considered undesirable. Some of these stocks are 20 to 30 years old. Estimates suggest that there are 500,000 litres of dieldrin stored in various locations in Africa. Another important group of unwanted pesticides are organo-phosphates. Storage facilities are poor or, in some cases, non-existent. Many examples can be found of corroded drums lying in the open air, gradually leaking their contents into the soil and groundwater, thereby causing severe pollution and forming a serious threat to human health, water supplies and to ecosystem functioning. These stocks require immediate containment and subsequent safe disposal.

12. Disposal must be carried out in a manner safe for human health and the environment. Appropriate disposal facilities are, however, not available in Africa.

United Nations Environment Programme

1. In accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was established "as a focal point for environmental actions and coordination within the United Nations system".

2. Among the areas developed as a matter of priority, the UNEP Governing Council has designated "oceans". In order to deal with the complexity of the environmental problems of the oceans in an integrated way, the Governing Council adopted a regional approach as exemplified by its Regional Seas Programme. The Programme is under the overall coordination of the Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Centre of UNEP.

3. Regional plans of action which are the substantive part of any regional programme, are designed to link assessment of the quality of marine environment and the causes of its deterioration with response actions for the management and development of the marine and coastal environment. Regional plans of action promote the parallel development of regional legal agreements.

4. Two regional areas are of relevance to the resolution in question, namely the west and central African region and the south-west Atlantic.

The west and central African region

5. Two legal agreements have been adopted for the protection and development of the coastal and marine environment of the west and central African region. In considering the agreements, the comprehensive scope of environmental assessment and management activities carried out to support and make effective the States' legal commitments should be borne in mind.

6. After four years of preparatory activities, UNEP convened the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Cooperation in the Protection and Development of Marine and Coastal Environment of the west and central African region at Abidjan, from 16 to 23 March 1981. The Conference adopted an action plan for the west and central African region and two legal agreements, namely, the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region; and the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution in Cases of Emergency.

7. As at September 1991, the legal agreements had been signed by 12 coastal States of the region. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has been designated as the depositary for the Convention and Protocol, and UNEP has been designated as the secretariat. The Convention entered into force in 1984. The geographic coverage of the Action Plan includes 21 participating States, namely, Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Zaire.

8. National focal points for the Action Plan were identified by each participating Government. They played a major role in the coordination, at the national level, of the implementation of programme priorities agreed upon by meetings of the Steering Committee, and of the intergovernmental and the contracting parties.

9. The Steering Committee, since its establishment in 1981, provided UNEP and the meetings of the intergovernmental and contracting parties with the necessary policy guidance for determining programme priorities. A trust fund was established with the intention to cover the common costs of implementing the Action Plan and to replace gradually the support provided by the Environment Fund.

10. Five regional projects dealing with contingency planning for marine pollution emergencies (WACAF/1), monitoring of pollution in the marine environment (WACAF/2), coastal erosion control (WACAF/3, WACAF/6) and development of national environmental legislation and its harmonization with the Abidjan Convention (WACAF/5) were initiated at the request of the Governments of the region. They are being implemented in cooperation with United Nations bodies and involved national institutions and experts from the region.

11. As a result of ongoing activities, the following has been achieved:

(a) A review has been conducted of the legal aspects of marine environmental protection in the Gulf of Guinea and adjacent areas;

(b) A directory of marine research centres in Africa has been published;

(c) Twenty-three research institutes or universities and laboratories from 10 countries were organized in a network of institutions for monitoring the quality of the marine environment. The first assessments of the state of marine and coastal waters in the west and central African region are available;

(d) Reports on the state of national legislation relevant to the protection of the marine environment have been prepared for Gabon and Ghana, with the assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

12. Technical assistance was provided to several Governments and national institutions in the region and a large number of the technical personnel were trained in subjects relevant to the Action Plan. This contributed considerably to the strengthening of national capabilities to respond to marine environmental problems of the region.

13. The support of FAO, IMO, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, particularly in the preparatory phase leading to the adoption of the Action Plan, was generous, efficient and contributed significantly to the development and implementation of the Plan.

14. In the implementation of any regional programme, particularly one which involves developing countries, a major difficulty is the uneven level of technical capabilities of participating States and the frequent lack of infrastructure adequate for their effective participation in the programme. For this reason the need for training and technical assistance has been strongly emphasized in each of the main elements of the Action Plan.

15. Provision of training (in the form of both individual or group training) and technical support has been a major component of the various implemented or ongoing activities. Furthermore, UNEP has sponsored participation of a number of individual experts from the west and central African region in training programmes not organized in the framework of, but relevant to, the Action Plan, such as the Workshop on the Conservation of Marine Mammals in West and Central Africa, held from 21 to 25 April 1992.

16. Technical assistance has also been provided to the States of the region and their major institutions in the form of experts and in the supply of equipment and material needs for carrying out various projects and tasks.

17. More recently, discussions are ongoing for the possible establishment of a regional coordinating unit for the Action Plan, as in the case of other regional seas action plans.

The south-west Atlantic region

18. In view of the recognized need to address coastal zone resources and management needs and priorities in each country, discussions are being held with the Governments of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay for the convening of a meeting of experts on the coastal and marine environment.

19. The meeting would be held jointly by UNEP and IOC/UNESCO, with participation of relevant international organizations and would serve as a basis to assess the status and identify priorities of each country concerning the marine environment.

United Nations Population Fund

1. While the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has not provided special assistance specifically directed to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/74 of 14 December 1992, it has undertaken, or plans to undertake, for each of the three countries mentioned in the resolution, specific activities that will contribute to the strengthening of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic. These activities are set out below.

Angola

2. UNFPA continues to implement what was expected to be a US$ 8.5 million programme for the period from 1991-1995. Unfortunately, the resource situation has not permitted delivery of the entire amount expected. The largest project supported, and which has increasingly become the focus of the assistance with the deterioration of the security situation, is in the field of maternal/child

health and family planning. Emphasis in that project is on rehabilitating and equipping health units and training of staff.

Liberia

3. The country programme was approved in 1987 for five years in the amount of US$ 3 million. At the outbreak of the civil war in 1990, programme expenditures totalled almost US$ 2 million. At this time, field dependent projects remain suspended due to the security situation. Desk-based activities such as the review and analysis of existing demographic data and related workshops for government staff on population policy implementation are receiving modest support.

4. UNFPA provided funding to support government activities in connection with World Population Day and is continuing support for a series of national activities in preparation for the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in 1994. Later in 1993, and as may be advised by the United Nations Special Coordinator for Liberia, based on the security situation, UNFPA intends to field a preliminary fact-finding mission to Monrovia with the objective of advising on the possibilities for resuming full operational activities.

South Africa

5. In line with the intent and purpose of the United Nations consensus resolution on South Africa, UNFPA is awaiting the conclusion of the process towards the attainment of democratic rule in South Africa and has not developed operational activities in the country. Of particular importance to population activities will be the position and declarations of the future political administration in South Africa.

6. In preparation for a programme of assistance, however, the Fund is keeping abreast of developments in the social sector, including population. In this regard, UNFPA has been having discussions on future collaboration with United Nations specialized agencies and international non-governmental organizations that are already organizing population and development activities in the southern African subregion as a whole. UNFPA has been participating, in an observer capacity, in awareness creation activities that focus on population and health issues in South Africa, as have been organized by other United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations.

United Nations University

The United Nations University (UNU) warmly welcomes the declaration of the South Atlantic as a zone of peace and will seek, through its research and programmatic training and dissemination activities, to assist and contribute appropriately to the joint efforts of the States of the zone to implement the declaration.

Economic Commission for Africa

1. In June 1990, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) participated in the United Nations Development Programme/Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDP/DOALOS)-sponsored seminar at Brazzaville, on cooperation among the member States of the South Atlantic zone of peace and cooperation in the field of marine affairs. ECA presented a technical paper at this seminar on scope and areas to be accorded priority for such cooperation.

2. In April 1991, ECA presented a technical paper on specific modalities of cooperation in the field of marine affairs at the follow-up meeting at Montevideo of the States of the South Atlantic zone of peace and cooperation, organized by UNDP/DOALOS and hosted by the Government of Uruguay. These meetings were attended by representatives of member States of the South Atlantic from Africa and South America.

3. At both meetings, there were requests from member States for additional relevant ECA publications on the subject for other subregions in Africa, and these publications were subsequently made available to the requesting agencies. It was also made clear to the member States that ECA would, whenever requested to do so and within the constraints of its resources, make all efforts to assist the African member States in the implementation of the declaration of the South Atlantic of a zone of peace and cooperation, in particular, and in the exploration and exploitation of marine resources, in general.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

1. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was actively involved during 1990 and 1991 in the First and Second Meetings of Experts on the Law of the Sea of the States of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, held respectively at Brazzaville and Montevideo.

2. ECLAC submitted a contribution to the proposals for cooperation in the Law of the Sea and marine affairs among the States of the zone, analysing some relevant policy options for Latin America and Caribbean countries members of it.

3. Among some recommended courses of action in that document, were the following:

(a) To start informal consultations, through the technical support of FAO, on the impact of high-seas fisheries in straddling and highly migratory stocks of economic importance to coastal States of the zone, and to devise mechanisms for establishing negotiations with those States whose nationals exploit some living resources according to article 118 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

(b) To agree on preliminary steps to support regional commissions in the fulfilment of mandates contained in General Assembly resolution 44/226 of 22 December 1989 on traffic in and disposal, control and transboundary movements of toxic and dangerous products and wastes, taking into account the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and

their Disposal, 8/ the Bamako Convention on the Ban of Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa 9/ and any other relevant instrument on the waste trade within the zone.

4. Consequently, the work of the Marine Resources Unit, which has been involved in the subject, was oriented towards the accomplishment of the above goals as far as countries of the region are concerned, with a view to facilitating future interregional work, should States members of the zone deem it pertinent.

5. Between 15 and 19 November 1993, ECLAC, through the generous contribution of the Swiss Government, and with the collaboration of the secretariat of the said Basel Convention, is convening a regional meeting on environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes in Latin America and the Caribbean and implementation of the Basel Convention, which includes an agenda item devoted to analysing possible ways of interacting with other regional commissions with a view to maintaining efficient and coordinated monitoring and assessment of the illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes. ECLAC believes that the results of this meeting will assist States members of the zone in devising ways of cooperation in an area of great concern for them, as expressly recognized in the Final Document of the first meeting of States of the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, issued at Rio de Janeiro on 29 July 1988 (A/43/512).

6. At the end of 1993, ECLAC is also organizing an expert group meeting out of its regular budget in order technically to analyse the text of negotiation submitted by the Chairman of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, so as to support countries of the region in the future negotiating sessions of this Conference. High-seas fisheries is another key issue for States members of the zone.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

1. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) intends to provide technical assistance to the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean, to be held in Cape Verde in 1994. One of the recent major events was the Regional Workshop on Fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance for African States in the Region, held at Accra from 2 to 5 November 1992. The Workshop was financed by the FAO/Norway Fisheries Management and Law Advisory Programme (FIMLAP), in close collaboration with regular programme activities.

2. Also under the FIMLAP programme, more detailed advice was provided to Angola and Namibia, while FAO and the Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD) continue to collaborate through a project covering the survey and identification of world marine fish resources, particularly in Angolan and Namibian waters and other African coastal States, and using the research vessel Dr. Fridtjof Nansen in West Africa.

3. At the national level, the main contribution of FAO to the promotion of efforts to implement the spirit of the resolution is assistance in the planning and management of fisheries which is a key element for the proper management of

fisheries resources in the areas formerly covered by the International Commission for the South-east Atlantic Fisheries (ICSEAF). Under a national project on "Institutional Support in Fisheries Management, Policy and Planning", the following assistance has been provided to Namibia: collection and analysis of biological and economic data for fisheries; assessment of the resource rent available and government revenue from the sector; formulation of a management strategy and overall development plan for the sector; and provision of advice on negotiation for fishing agreements, joint ventures, investment, development projects and institutional set-up. Furthermore, FAO is currently undertaking the preparation of a code of conduct for responsible fisheries and is providing technical advice to the member countries and to the United Nations Secretariat for the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. These activities are relevant to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/74 of 14 December 1992. Finally, planning is at an advanced stage for the implementation of a regional fisheries law advisory programme for West Africa, with funding from the European Economic Community.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

1. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has taken due note of United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/74 of 14 December 1992 dealing with the "zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic" and in particular paragraph 11 requesting the relevant organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system to render all appropriate assistance which States of the zone may seek in their joint efforts to implement the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

2. In implementing its programmes in the fields of education, science, including social sciences, culture and communication, UNESCO will continue to pay particular attention to promoting cooperation in these domains among all States in the region situated between Africa and South America.

3. UNESCO has also noted that General Assembly resolution 47/74 stresses the importance for the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic of the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In this respect, it is recalled that UNESCO scientific and educational programmes have been reoriented in line with the results of the Conference, particularly Agenda 21, 3/ the Convention on Biological Diversity 5/ and the Framework Convention on Climate Change. 4/ UNESCO will make all efforts to assist the countries of the South Atlantic region in the implementation of the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in its areas of competence.

4. The overall goals of the actions of UNESCO are to contribute to peace and cooperation among the countries of the region and to help them move towards sustainable development, which is feasible only through the preservation of the region's environment and natural resources, in particular in marine coastal areas.

5. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) is endeavouring to establish regional cooperation in the field of marine studies, systematic

observations, information exchange and human resources development among the countries of the region. Several regional programmes, such as the UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology for Latin America and the Caribbean programme, are under way.

6. One example of action by UNESCO in the field of environment and development in the region is the newly launched project entitled "South-South Cooperation on Environmentally Sound Socio-Economic Development in the Humid Tropics", which focuses on continuing scientific cooperation between African and South American countries in the field of action-oriented environmental research and training.

World Health Organization

1. World Health Organization (WHO) policy is reflected in the following resolutions adopted by the World Health Assembly in 1993: 10/

(a) WHA 46.20 - WHO global strategy for health and environment, inter alia, calls upon member States, in response to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to give high priority, in line with paragraph 38.8 of Agenda 21, 3/ to matters relating to health and the environment in the development of plans on sustainable development at the country level and to utilize the WHO global strategy as the framework for the environmental health aspects of these plans;

(b) WHA 46.39 - Health and medical services in times of armed conflict condemns all acts such as alleged systematic breaches of the Principles of Medical Ethics, and, inter alia, calls on all parties to armed conflicts to adhere fully to and implement the rules of international humanitarian law protecting wounded, sick and shipwrecked persons, as well as medical, nursing and other health personnel, and to respect provisions that regulate the use of Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems. The resolution also strongly urges parties to armed conflicts to refrain from all acts that prevent or obstruct the provision or delivery of medical assistance and services;

(c) WHA 46.40 - Health and environmental effects of nuclear weapons notes the concern of the world health community over the continued threat to health and the environment from nuclear weapons. The World Health Assembly decided, in accordance with Article 96 (2) of the Charter of the United Nations, Article 76 of the Constitution of WHO and Article X of the Agreement between the United Nations and WHO to request the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion on the following question: In view of the health and environmental effects, would the use of nuclear weapons by a State in war or other armed conflict be a breach of its obligations under international law including the WHO constitution?

(d) WHA 46.29 - Collaboration within the United Nations system: health assistance to specific countries urges the Director-General to continue to give high priority to health assistance to, inter alia, the liberation struggle in southern Africa, the front-line States and the reconstruction and development of the health sector in Namibia; and to coordinate these and other WHO efforts in emergency preparedness and humanitarian assistance with the humanitarian affairs

programmes of the United Nations system, including mobilization of extrabudgetary resources;

(e) WHA 46.30 - Intensified cooperation with countries in greatest need, in particular in Africa expresses awareness that adverse economic factors and armed conflicts have a very bad effect on health status, and appeals to all member States, bilateral and multilateral development agencies, other organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to continue and intensify their support for developing countries, particularly in Africa, in the implementation of their health-for-all strategies. The Director-General is requested to focus on the health priorities of African countries and to mobilize the necessary resources to support their efforts to attain health for all.

2. WHO believes that the above five resolutions adopted in 1993 are pertinent to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/74.

Environmental health

3. Although the WHO Divisions of Environmental Health and Promotion of Chemical Safety do not have a programme activity specifically focused on the South Atlantic, they are particularly interested in the zone for the following reasons:

(a) Peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic are essential for the implementation of international conventions on the protection of the marine environment. They provide an important condition for the effective control of marine pollution and for environmental protection of adjoining areas of Antarctica;

(b) The South Atlantic, including some of the islands, is particularly suited to the monitoring of the effects of increased UV-B exposure on health, as related to stratospheric ozone depletion.

Emergency and humanitarian action in specific countries

(a) Liberia

4. Between 1992 and early 1993 (thanks to the donation made by the United Kingdom to the United Nations consolidated appeal of 1992), WHO was able to supply to Liberia emergency health kits and assist in the setting up of a national blood bank. In August 1993, under the peace agreement, WHO joined the process of planning United Nations consolidated humanitarian assistance to the population with a focus on: (a) health assistance to demobilization; (b) control of communicable diseases, including the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS); (c) establishing a consultation system for war victims; and (d) rehabilitation of the health system, including health facilities and a surveillance system and the provision of essential drugs. The United Nations appeal was expected to be launched in mid-September 1993.

(b) Angola

5. Angola has been devastated by a drought, which was exacerbated by civil war. United Nations humanitarian assistance has been made possible under the Drought Emergencies in Southern Africa appeal. An "emergency" officer has been attached to the WHO country office to collaborate with the United Nations Volunteer service and WHO, in cooperation with UNICEF, has assisted in particular nutritional surveillance action. In June 1993, the United Nations and its specialized agencies issued a United Nations consolidated appeal for relief and rehabilitation under the peace accord. The conflict has not yet ceased, however, and donations to this appeal have been very limited. Nevertheless, WHO and UNICEF have planned to work closely towards the restoration of the health services and in the control of epidemics.

(c) Namibia

6. Namibia is also one of the southern African countries stricken by drought. WHO has used its own funds to supply emergency health kits to alleviate the deteriorated health situation in that country.

(d) South Africa

7. WHO has initiated studies on the health and psycho-social implications of apartheid. By analysing and documenting the destructive effects of apartheid policies on the health conditions in South Africa, WHO has contributed to a heightened awareness in the international community of the plight of the majority of the population in the country. Moreover, the reports and publications have encouraged health workers, inside and outside South Africa, who, in the face of tremendous odds, are struggling for change and are doing their utmost to deliver health care to black communities.

8. WHO has also extended technical assistance to national liberation movements by training health workers in the assessment of needs and in the organization of care for the victims of apartheid and racism forced to seek refuge elsewhere. This forward-looking policy is bearing fruit now that a political change is about to take place in South Africa. The step-by-step preparation of health manpower to assume its functions and responsibilities in a future South Africa is one of the far-reaching contributions by WHO.

9. More than a decade ago, WHO organized an international conference at Brazzaville, from 16 to 20 November 1981, with the main theme of the discussion centred on the choices between health and apartheid, the analysis of the health system in South Africa, and the interrelationships between apartheid and maternal and child health, workers' health and mental health. The conference assembled eminent persons who contributed to a strategy for health for all by the year 2000 in the African region, including action against apartheid and its harmful effects on health development.

10. A plan of action based on the principles of democratic government should now be developed. This plan should include coordination and management of health programmes based on the cooperation already established between WHO and national liberation movements; creating sustainable health systems

infrastructure; institution building; health science and technology promotion; medical care; and disease prevention and control.

International Maritime Organization

The International Maritime Organization (IMO), within its area of competence and in conjunction with the United Nations Environment Programme, would be prepared and willing to render assistance to the coastal States bordering the south west Atlantic zone if they endeavoured to develop a regional agreement for cooperation in dealing with major pollution incidents. In accordance with the usual practice, General Assembly resolution 47/74 of 14 December 1992 will be reported to the IMO Council for information and appropriate action. Any decision taken by the Council on the matter will be communicated to the United Nations in due course.

Notes

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 634, No. 9068.

2/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (vol. I and vol.I/Corr.1, vol. II, vol. III and vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex I.

3/ Ibid., annex II.

4/ A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

5/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

6/ A/46/596-S/23164.

7/ A/48/266-S/26086.

8/ UNEP/IG.80/3.

9/ International Legal Materials, vol. 30 (1991), p. 773.

10/ See World Health Organization, Forty-sixth World Health Assembly, Geneva, 3-14 May 1993, Resolutions and Decisions, Annexes (WHA46/1993/REC/1).